1	2
Manipur	05
Meghalaya	01
Mizoram	04
Nagaland	04
Orissa	46
Pondicherry	04
Punjab	01
Rajasthan	43
Sikkim	02
Tamil Nadu	06
Tripura	14
Uttar Pradesh	03
Uttarakhand	03
West Bengal	63
Chandigarh	01

Resurfacing of Shish Mahal

1362. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to resurface the original structure of the 17th century old 'Shish Mahal' at Shalimar Bagh in North Delhi which is buried underground so far;

(b) if so, how much time it would take to resurface the original structure;

(c) whether there are any other such neglected historical sites in the country;

(d) if so, the number thereof and whether Government proposes to declare such places as tourist spots in the country during the Commonwealth Games-2010; and

(e) the funds and time that would be required to resurface the Shish Mahal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Archaeological exploration and excavation is an ongoing exercise undertaken by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). For the Commonwealth Games, 2010, 46 monuments have been chosen in Delhi for facelift. The facelift works on these monuments are going on and would be accomplished well in time for the Games.

(e) Does not arise.

Manuscripts in Assam

1363. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in Assam 200-400 year old manuscripts of various old shrines are becoming unfit to read which were written in the bark of tree, traditionally known as Xasipat in Assam;

(b) if so, whether Government would take some policy to create local museums with hundred per cent finance from the Central Government to preserve such age old manuscripts, etc.;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the State Government of Assam has approached the Central Government for assistance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Government is aware that some of the manuscripts written on the bark of agora tree, known as Sanchipat are in bad shape and need conservation measures.

(b) and (c) National Mission for Manuscripts, set up by the Government, is working for conservation, digitization and documentation of such manuscripts through its network of Resource Centres and Conservation Centres. Ministry of Culture is also implementing a scheme of financial assistance upto 80 per cent of the estimated cost for 'Setting up, Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums'. Besides, the National Archives of India, an attached office of the Ministry of Culture, is operating the following two financial assistance schemes:—

(i) "Scheme of Financial Assistance to State/Union Territory Archival Repositories, Government Libraries and Museums".

(ii) "Scheme of Financial Assistance for Preservation of Manuscripts/Rare Books for NGO's/Individuals etc."

(d) No, Sir.

Protection of Culture

1364. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sent the committees to study the culture and protect it for the future generations, especially Telugu;